

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2771 without my signature.

Online campaign reporting is one of the most significant advancements in the area of political reform since the original passage of the Political Reform Act in 1974. The inadequacy of the free online filing system is not sufficient grounds to suspend electronic disclosure requirements. Such action would make it significantly more difficult for interested parties to review campaign expenditures and receipts and would constitute a step backward in terms of the goal of full public disclosure.

While I am sympathetic to the smaller electronic filers who may be burdened by the delay in implementation of the free online filing system, I believe that online disclosure is far too important to postpone. The public should not be deprived of Internet access to critical campaign finance information. Furthermore, the Secretary of State has reported significant progress toward the development of the free online filing system and it is my understanding that it will be completed in the near future.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger